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Random Remarks

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THE LINACRE QUARTERLY

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NO. 2

RANDOM REMARKS

Again two old bugbears—birth control and euthanasia—have figured rather largely in the daily press.

We read that the "National Committee for Planned Parenthood" (what a misnomer!) has set itself the object of collecting \$625,740 to carry on its Birth Control work during the year. It was announced that a large share of this has already been donated, many names of the donors figuring in the Social Register. It will be well for members of the various Catholic Physicians' Guilds to watch closely whether any Birth Control bills are introduced in their State Legislatures, and to do all in their power to fight such legislation.

As a result of conditions in war-torn England, the English "Voluntary Euthanasia Legalization Society" is now appealing to Americans for aid to spread their work. We quote from the splendid article in *America* of March 15,

by the scholarly Father Paul L. Blakely, S.J.:

"One of these statements from the English Society fell into the hands of Dr. A. C. Knowles, rector of the Church of St. Alban, near Philadelphia, and his reply to the Society, published in the *Living Church*, merits widespread circulation.

"I regard your proposal as absolutely against the Christian religion, proper ethical standards, and civilized law. I also deem it a presumptuous interference with the Will of God, and an action cowardly in the extreme.

"In a long ministry, I have seen people suffering the most intense pain bravely and patiently, offering their pains to God in union with Our Lord, and accepting their sufferings as a means of reparation or vicarious sacrifice.

"The names on your list mean nothing, except to show the extensive work of the devil."

"That, it need hardly be said, is the only opinion that a Christian can have about euthanasia. Voluntarily permitted by the patient, it is suicide. Inflicted on him (and this is counseled by some), it is murder, a peculiarly revolting kind, since it is the murder of a person wholly unable to defend himself.

"The Catholic position on euthanasia rests on the following principles:

1. God alone is the Author of life. Life is God's alone to give, and to terminate.

2. Man does not have the dominion of his life, but he does pos-

sess the use of it, and the right to live it free from molestation. Hence, to take the life of an innocent man inflicts a grave injury upon him.

3. 'Man, as a rational animal, achieves his perfection and last end by using his body. If by suicide, he makes this impossible, he is by that act making it impossible for himself to achieve his last end. This is the greatest perversion of rational nature that is possible.' (Henry Davis, S.J., *Moral Theology*, II, pp. 114-115.) Hence suicide is a direct violation of the natural as well as of the Divine law."

HIS FIRST CEREAL FEEDING

It is a fortunate provision of Nature that at the time the infant is ready to receive the nutritional benefits of cereal, his taste is unspoiled by sweets, pastry, condiments, tobacco, alcohol and other things to which adult palates and constitutions have become conditioned.

Many a parent, with limited knowledge of nutrition, attempts to do the baby's tasting for him. Partial to sweets, the mother sweetens her child's cereal. Disliking cod liver oil, she wrinkles her nose and sighs: "Poor child, to have to take such awful stuff!"

The child is quick to learn by example, and soon may become poor indeed—in nutrition, as well as in mental habits and psychological adjustment.

Appreciating the importance and difficulties of the physician's problem in establishing and maintaining good eating habits, Mead Johnson & Company continue to supply Pablum in its natural form. No sugar is added. There is no corresponding dilution of the present protein, mineral and vitamin content of Pablum. Is this not worth while?